

# **London Concord Singers**

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**FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER 1971 at 8 pm**

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## **A Ceremony of Carols BRITTEN**

**In the Beginning COPLAND**

**Brazilian Psalm BERGER**

**AND**

**Christmas Carols**

**ARLETTE BEZDECHI**

**HARP**

**MALCOLM COTTLE**

**CONDUCTOR**

**ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS**

**Admission by programme price 40p at the door**

Brazilian Psalm

JEAN BERGER

Tenor Solo - Lawrence Howes

Born in Hamm in 1901, Berger went to Paris in 1931 to study composition under Louis Aubert, to whom the Brazilian Psalm is dedicated. In 1939 he went to Rio de Janeiro to coach French Opera. It was presumably here that he was inspired to write the Psalm.

After a slow opening the Brazilian Psalm is basically divided into two sections. The first of these is a paraphrase of Psalm 150 and is fanfare like. The second, which is in rumba rhythm, represents a procession coming closer and then fading away again into the distance.

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In the beginning

AARON COPPLAND

Mezzo Soprano Solo - Janice Glaister

Copland, born in 1900, is probably the leading composer to have emerged in America so far. In his early days he was strongly influenced by jazz, folk and Negro spiritual music. More recently, however, he has tended not to use these, although their influence is still very much in evidence.

'In the beginning' is a setting of the opening verses of the book of Genesis. It was commissioned by the committee of the 1947 Harvard Symposium of Music & Criticism, and was first performed at Harvard Memorial Church by Robert Shaw and the Collegiate Chorale of Cambridge, Mass.

At the end of each day's achievement there is a choral chant to establish the creation of the evening and the morning, each time being a tone higher than the last. Each separate day of the creation unfolds according to the composer's inner conception of the Biblical text.

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I N T E R V A L

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Soprano Solos : Daphne Gedge

Hilary Fielder

Tenor Solo : Keith Doherty

Harp : ARLETTE BEZDECHI

Britten's Ceremony of Carols is probably his most popular choral work. Originally composed for boys voices and harp, it is here sung in the arrangement by Julius Harrison for mixed choir.

Opening with a plainsong processional, the 'Ceremony' consists of settings of ancient carols and Christmas poems, each displaying Britten's marvellous ability to mirror in his music the words that he is setting. The work concludes with the plainsong with which it opened.

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| 1. Procession        | 6. This Little Babe         |
| 2. Wolcum Yole !     | 7. Interlude                |
| 3. There is No Rose  | 8. In Freezing Winter Night |
| 4a. That Yonge Child | 9. Spring Carol             |
| 4b. Balulalow        | 10. Deo Gracias             |
| 5. As Dew in Aprille | 11. Recession               |

Prelude and Dance

MARCEL TOURNIER

Harp Solo : ARLETTE BEZDECHI

Born Today is the Child Divine	Arr. Malcolm Williamson
The Angel Gabriel	Arr. Nicholas Maw
Mary is a Lady Bright	Derek Holman
La terre est froide	Arr. Phyllis Tate
Quem Vidistis, Pastores ?	Arthur Oldham
Three Kings	Healey Willan
Good King Wenceslas	Arr. Malcolm Williamson
Ding dong ! merrily on high	Arr. Malcolm Williamson

LONDON CONCORD SINGERS was started in its present form in 1966. It consists of amateur singers who wish to strive towards a high standard of performance of all types of choral music, although due to its comparatively small size (approximately 30 voices) it is not able to attempt some of the larger scale works. The choir has won prizes at Eisteddfodau and has travelled to the Montreux International Choral Festival, where it won a major prize competing against choirs from all over Europe. In 1969 the choir went to Yugoslavia where it performed during the Dubrovnik Summer Festival. During last season the choir gave performances in many parts of the country, including Richmond, Buxton and Walkern in Hertfordshire, besides giving a concert at St. Martin in the Fields and winning three classes in the Brent Festival.

The conductor of the choir, MALCOLM COTTLE, sang for many years as a boy with the choir of St. Pauls Cathedral, during which time he sang at the Coronation of the Queen, and also toured the U.S.A. with them. More recently, as well as conducting the London Concord Singers, he has worked as repetiteur with the New Opera Company at Sadlers Wells Theatre, and also toured as Musical Director with the show 'Close the Coalhouse Door'. Last Christmas he was Musical Director for the Christmas Season at Sheffield Playhouse Theatre.

ARLETTE BEZDECHI has travelled throughout Europe giving concerts and has been acclaimed for her artistry, musicianship and technique in Germany, France, Belgium and Spain. Of Roumanian descent she was born and grew up in Belgium. At 16 she had won first Prize at Brussels Conservatoire ; at 17 she had won first Prize at Paris Conservatoire and at 13 the 'Renne Rocher' prize.

London Concord Singers would welcome friends wishing to subscribe to the increasing activities of the Group.

Anyone requiring further details or wishing to go on our mailing list, please contact :-

Miss Susan Rivers  
4 Flag Walk  
Pinner  
Middlesex.

The National Federation of Music Societies, to which this Society is affiliated, gives support towards the cost of this concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.